

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF BRAD
CRAMER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of Somerset County Sheriff Brad Cramer, who passed away on April 3, 2021. As a public servant, Sheriff Cramer worked tirelessly to protect and serve the residents of Somerset County.

Sheriff Cramer spent four decades as a law enforcement officer. He served for 30 years with the Somerset Borough Police Department, including six years as the Borough's Police Chief. He went on to serve the Conemaugh Township Police Department for four years and afterwards, he joined the Somerset County Sheriffs Department as a deputy prior to being elected Sheriff in 2015.

His presence and leadership will be missed by the people he served over his career. I am grateful for the service of Sheriff Cramer and on behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District I wish his family and friends comfort during this difficult time.

HONORING COURT APPOINTED
SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF MONTEREY COUNTY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the indispensable advocacy of a Central Coast organization that gives a voice to some of our most vulnerable community members. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Monterey County improves the lives of children in the foster care system by pairing them with trained volunteers from the community who advocate for them and stand by their side as stable adults they can count on as they go through the chaos of the foster care system.

CASA and its devoted staff and team of volunteers are guided by the needs of children in need of someone to stand by them and ensure they are not alone as they face instability, fear, and unfamiliar surroundings. Since 1994, the organization has continued to be the only local nonprofit of its kind that recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers to serve as court appointed advocates for abused and neglected foster children throughout Monterey County. CASA of Monterey County exists so that abused and neglected children in protective care have the chance to become successful adults.

Monterey County is home to over 400 children and youth in foster care. But thanks to the devoted advocates and the CASA team,

these children have a voice as they navigate a tumultuous system. CASA provides these children the compassion, clarity, and care they so desperately need. And it is because of CASA that these children and youth have the tools they need to go on to successful adulthoods.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize this treasured community organization that has protected and advocated for countless foster children and youth. I thank all of those who have given their time and resources to help these children feel safe and succeed. I extend my gratitude to CASA Monterey's Board of Directors, Board Chair Jennifer Rosenthal, Executive Director Beth Wilbur, and its devoted network of advocates.

FRIEDA MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frieda Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Frieda Martinez is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. H.S. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frieda Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Frieda Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELVIS
"SONNY" GIBSON

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize and celebrate a passionate historian, dedicated public servant, and deeply valued member of the Kansas City community, Mr. Elvis "Sonny" Gibson. Though Mr. Gibson retired from a career with the federal government in 1989, his work to make our world a more equitable and just place has never stopped. To this day, Sonny continues to give back to his community, contribute to the Black cultural history of Kansas City, and bend the American historical record as a whole towards truth and justice. Because of

Mr. Gibson's outstanding work and tireless commitment, voices once silenced have been heard, people once forgotten have been remembered, and stories once lost have been told.

After moving to Kansas City with his family in 1947, Sonny attended R. T. Coles High School, one of only two high schools for Black students in Kansas City at the time. He then went on to work as Branch Chief of Fair Housing within the United States Department of Housing of Urban Development. In that role, Sonny proved himself to be adept at navigating the bureaucracy to find solutions for those who needed it most. After a career that lasted over twenty-nine years, Sonny retired, but his work was far from over.

Writing his first book in 1988, Sonny quickly began a second career dedicated to telling the stories of the previously unrecognized and acknowledging the work of Black Kansas Citians throughout history. It was, and continues to be, a labor of love for Sonny—one that has propelled him to produce six books and spend innumerable hours researching and collecting reliable historical accounts. The articles and announcements Sonny discovered and shared with the world had often been left out of traditional historical sources. Not only was Sonny resolved to bringing them to light, he also went about the monumental task of arranging them in chronological order and having them reproduced in the exact way he encountered them. His attention to detail and high historiographical standards are a reflection of the importance of Sonny's work and his passion for doing it justice. Front of mind for Sonny has always been the impact these historical artifacts will have on his readers. These small glimpses of history help us understand who we are as a nation as much as, if not more than, any broad volume. For example, in his most recent book, 1865—A Kansas City Negro History, Sonny writes about a place that is especially near and dear to my heart: Kansas City's 18th and Vine district. Through his writing, he is able to take readers back in time to highlight the entertainers, politicians, and business leaders who built the historic area. Sonny has an exceptional talent and ability to help his readers view history through the eyes of those who lived it—people not so different than the readers themselves.

As I think about Sonny's wisdom and passion, one specific instance comes to mind. Sonny was telling an audience about being posed the question "Why are you always wondering about what Black people did way back when?" Sonny said, "To understand the struggle, to understand that there are people in this country and in this city, who have come through an ocean of blood and tears, to get where we are today." Fueled by his unwavering mission to understand the struggles of those who have come before him, Sonny has not only deepened his own understanding of our city's rich Black history. He has also given the gift of that knowledge to his community, to his country, and to future generations.

In addition to his work as an author, Sonny also dedicates a great deal of time to giving

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